

NIDDK Fellows Newsletter

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The Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) in collaboration with the NIDDK Fellowship Office has started a monthly newsletter to announce events and news. If you would like to help write articles for the newsletter or have an idea for what should be included, please contact:

Anna Burkart
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The NIDDK Fellows Advisory Board (FAB)

The NIDDK Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) works with the Office of Fellow Recruitment and Career Development to improve the overall training experience for fellows within the intramural research program. The FAB group is composed of 10-12 members from different laboratories in NIDDK. In September 2008, Rasika Kalamegham founded and started editing a monthly newsletter, The NIDDK Fellows Newsletter, to provide the NIDDK fellows with information related to career development events, training opportunities, awards, in addition to information regarding upcoming social gatherings with other fellows, in coordination with FelCom and GSC.

In this first part of a two-part series, the Newsletter will explore the lives of the FAB group, allowing NIDDK fellows to learn about who they are, which laboratory they work in,



From left to right: Armand de Gramont, Laertis Ikononou, Shauna Clark, Lorraine Moore, Anna Burkart, Amy Magra, Lou Simchowit, and John Malone. Lorraine, Amy and Lou work in the Office of Fellow Recruitment and Career Development and were previously featured in the September 2008 issue of the Fellows Newsletter.

what their research interests are, possible career goals and future aspirations, as well as any hobbies or interests outside of the lab.

Armand de Gramont

Armand works in Orna Cohen-Fix's laboratory in LMCB. His research focus is chromosome segregation in yeast. Armand joined the NIH in 2005 and then subsequently joined the FAB in 2008. His graduate studies were conducted at the Universite Pierre et

Marie Curie in Paris, France. Armand hopes to someday have a career as a research manager in industry.

Laertis Ikononou

Laertis works in Marvin Gershengorn's laboratory in CEB. His research is focused on the development of cell therapies for Type I diabetes. He has characterized cell populations isolated from adult human islets and studied pathways (especially the Wnt/beta-catenin pathway) important for

The NIDDK FAB Group continued from Page 1



their proliferation and differentiation into insulin producing cells. Laertis joined the NIH in August 2003 and has been a FAB member since September 2007. He obtained his PhD from the Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. His career goal is to work and lead a research team either in academia or in industry at the interface of biochemical engineering and stem cell biology. In other words, he would like to translate developmental and cell biology facts into efficient and rational bioprocesses for ex vivo expansion and differentiation of stem cells. When not worshipping science at the CEB shrine, he likes to discover obscure movies at the AFI and the National Gallery of Art, ride his bike and avidly read everything he unearths in daylong expeditions to Washington, D.C.'s bookstores.

Shauna Clark

Shauna works in T. Jake Liang's laboratory

in LDB. Her research focuses on the molecular pathogenesis of HCV-cell/host interactions and molecular pathways of host antiviral defense. She joined the NIH at the end of September 2008 and joined FAB about three days later. Shauna attended the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and received her PhD from the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in August 2008. She loves to cook, dance, shop, go rock climbing and fly fishing, and spend time with friends and family.

Anna Burkart

Anna works in Jurrien Dean's laboratory in LCDB. Her research focuses on examining the molecular events of fertilization, particularly, the post-fertilization block to polyspermy. Anna joined the NIH in April 2007 and the FAB in September 2008. Anna obtained her PhD from the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular

Biology and Cell Biology at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. She hopes to have an active research career investigating and developing therapeutics for treating reproductive disease and dysfunction. Outside of the lab, you can generally find Anna in the kitchen baking, much to the delight of LCDB, who gets to sample all the desserts. She also enjoys playing softball on the Mall and attending all types of sporting events (football, basketball, baseball and hockey).

John Malone

John works in Brian Oliver's lab in LCDB. His research interests include evolution and gene expression. John joined the NIH in September 2007 and the FAB in May 2008. John did his graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas at Arlington. When he completes his fellowship at the NIH, John hopes to have a career in academia.

Getting a Job with the Federal Government

Description: Are you interested in working for the federal government after completing your training at the NIH? If so, this seminar is for you! Come learn strategies on how to prepare your applications and make them stand out. This seminar will discuss how to establish timelines when applying for government jobs. Attendees will also gain insight on developing KSAs and resumes as well as receive tips on navigating the USAJOBS database website. Sponsored by FelCom Career Development Committee

Speakers: Alesia Booth, HR Systems, Analytics & Information Division, Office of Human Resources, NIH; Michelle Lipinski, Client Services Division, Office of Human Resources, NIH

Date/Time/Location: January 15, 2009 (Thursday) 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Building 10, Lipsett Auditorium

Please register in advance:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=LOZJpXCENLCMGv_2btGkJUGA_3d_3d

January Social Events:

Wednesday January 14th 6-10pm: FelCom Social Happy Hour at BlackFinn

Saturday January 24th: Visit to the Capitol

Wednesday January 28th 6-10pm: NIDDK Happy Hour / Wii Party at BlackFinn

Newsletter Naming and Logo Contest

The NIDDK Fellows Newsletter is getting a fresh look for 2009. In addition to a new layout and design, we would like a new name and logo for the newsletter. So, between now and the end of January, put on your thinking caps and submit your ideas for a name and/or logo for the newsletter. Please include the following information and send all entries to Anna Burkart at burkarta@niddk.nih.gov by **January 31, 2009**.

Name:

Laboratory:

PI:

Position: (ie Post-doc/Post-bac/Other)

Your idea for the Newsletter Name and/or Logo:

Winners will receive a fabulous gift bag to start off the New Year!

For more information about social events contact Chaya Pooput:

poopute@niddk.nih.gov

Submit your ideas
for the **NIDDK**
Fellows Newsletter
naming and logo
contest and you
may win a fabulous
gift bag!

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We're on the Web!
[http://fellowshipoffice.
niddk.nih.gov](http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov)

Felcom/GSC Holiday Party

By Chaya Pooput

With the support of FAES, FelCom and the Graduate Student Council organized the Holiday Party on Thursday December 11th from 6-11pm at the FAES House. Despite bad weather conditions, the party was a huge success and about 90 people attended the event. The highlight of the party was the great performance from a jazz band: their music brought such a wonderful atmosphere to the party! This was a family friendly event and small gifts were handed out to the children at the party. The fellows who brought their children were very appreciative and the gifts (Hotwheels, Barbie and Disney toys) were a great success. Everybody really enjoyed themselves and many fellows stayed until the very end. We would like to congratulate Nuria Gavara for winning the \$25 raffle! We would also like to thank everyone who helped out and all the people who attended the event and made this party such a success! We look forward to seeing you at future Felcom/GSC events!



Happy New Year 2009!